

Aetna Life Ins. Co.
Delaware Small Group
PPO Products

Summary

Aetna is filing premium rates for Small Group plans in Delaware.

The new rates will apply to plan years effective in 2021. The current membership and range of rate changes by product are:

Product Name: Aetna Preferred Provider Organization
Members as of January 2020: 1297
Range of Increases: 4.3%-4.3%

Why We Need to Increase Premiums

Medical costs are going up and we are changing our rates to reflect this increase. We expect medical costs to go up 13.3% excluding the effect of benefit or cost sharing changes. Medical costs go up for two reasons – providers raise their prices and members get more medical care.

Will Premiums for All Small Groups Increase 4.3%?

No. There is only one plan available in 2021, but the exact rate change depends on which plan the group moved from, when the group's contract renews and the ages and family sizes of enrolling employees. Rates charged to employees also depend upon any change in the amount of premium paid by the employer.

How does this request align to Minimum Loss Ratio Requirements (MLR)?

These rates are expected to produce an MLR equal to or above the 80% requirement for Small Group business. Under the ACA, at least 80% of the premiums collected by health plans are expected to pay for medical care and activities that improve health care quality for members. If the actual MLR turns out to be less than 80%, rebates will be issued to members in accordance with the law.

Aetna makes significant investments that benefit our members that the government does not allow us to use in this calculation. These investments include customer service, health quality activities like disease management programs, and the development of new information technologies.

What is Aetna doing to keep premiums affordable?

Aetna strives to keep our products as affordable as possible and to address the underlying cost of health care. We are:

- Developing new agreements, arrangements, and partnerships with health care providers that base provider compensation on the quality of care.

- Creating medical management programs that address potential health issues for members earlier, improving health outcomes and reducing the need for high-cost health care services.
- Working to reduce the ability of out-of-network providers to collect unreasonably excessive payments for services they provide.

We are dedicated to increasing transparency within the health care system and helping members best utilize the plans that they have. Members can access Aetna Navigator, a secure member website, which allows them to research their specific plan benefits, health care providers in a given area, and in some locations, the cost of certain health care services. The Aetna Navigator streamlined mobile app is also available to allow members to take their care on the go.